

# APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

## Section I - Acronyms

**AR** - Army Regulation  
**BCR** - Benefit Cost Ratio  
**CEI** - Continuing Eligibility Inspection  
**CFR** - Code of Federal Regulations  
**EM** - Engineer Manual, Emergency Manager, Emergency Management  
**EOC** - Emergency Operations Center  
**EP** - Engineer Pamphlet  
**ER** - Engineer Regulation  
**FCCE** - Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies  
**FCW** - Flood Control Work  
**ICW** - Inspection of Completed Works  
**IEI** - Initial Eligibility Inspection  
**LERRDs** - Lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and borrow and dredged or excavated materials disposal areas.  
**NSAP** - Nonstructural Alternatives Project  
**O&M** - Operations and Maintenance  
**OMRR&R** - Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation  
**PCA** - Project Cooperation Agreement.  
**PIR** - Project Information Report  
**PL** - Public Law  
**RIP** - Rehabilitation and Inspection Program  
**USACE** - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**USC** - United States Code  
**WRDA** - Water Resources Development Act

## Section II - Definitions

**Active.** A status applied to FCWs concerning participation in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program under authority of PL 84-99. An Active project must have met the Army Corps of Engineer's criteria for entry and been entered into the RIP. Only Active projects may receive rehabilitation assistance to repair damages caused by a flood event or coastal storm.

**Agricultural Levee.** A levee that provides at least a 5-year level of flood protection to predominantly agricultural areas or agribusinesses. May be federal or non-federal.

**Betterment.** During repair of an FCW, any construction effort that increases the area protected, provides features that did not exist prior to the flood event, or increases the degree or level of protection provided by the FCW. Examples of betterments include increasing the height of a levee, or providing riprap where none previously existed.

**Channel.** A natural or artificial watercourse with definite bed and banks to confine and conduct flowing water.

**Channel Capacity.** The maximum flow that can pass through a channel without overflowing the banks.

**Cooperation Agreement.** An agreement entered into by a District Commander (acting as the agent for the Department of the Army on behalf of the United States Government) and the public sponsor for the purpose of identifying each party's rights and obligations concerning the expenditure of federal funds under authority of PL 84-99.

**Deflection Weir.** Also known as a bendway weir, this is a structure (earth, rock, or timber) built part way across a river for the purpose of controlling erosion and maintaining the navigation channel.

**Deliberate Levee Cut.** A deliberate cut made in a levee, with the intention of either protecting the integrity of the structure (or an adjacent structure) from actual or forecasted river stages, or reducing the overall anticipated damages expected to occur to the existing structure by the current flood event. See also Dewatering Levee Cut.

**Dike.** In some areas of the United States, this term is used synonymously with levee. In other areas, it is used for the kind of structure referred to in this manual as a deflection, or bendway weir. Some people use it exclusively to refer to the salt-water version of a levee, designed to protect an area from sea water. Since this term is used so differently by different people, "dike" isn't used in this manual.

**Drainage Structure.** Generally, any feature or system (e.g., culverts) constructed for the purpose of discharging surface water run-off. Such structures are components of interior drainage systems.

**Eligible Levee.** A levee categorized as "Active" in the RIP, for which the Army Corps of Engineers can provide assistance under authority of PL 84-99 to repair damage caused by a flood event.

**Emergency.** A situation involving a natural or technological disaster that would result in an unacceptable hazard to human life, a significant loss of property, or significant economic hardship.

**Emergency Preparedness.** All those activities and measures designed or undertaken to prepare for or minimize the effects of a hazard upon the civilian population, to deal with the immediate emergency conditions that would be created by the hazard, and to effectuate emergency repairs to, or the emergency restoration of, vital utilities and facilities destroyed or damaged by the hazard.

**Federally Authorized Projects/Federal Projects.** An FCW project built by the Army Corps of Engineers that was authorized for construction by Congress or by the Corps' continuing authorities (e.g., Section 205.)

**Federal FCW/Federal Levee.** A Federally authorized FCW, levee, or levee system project. FCWs constructed by non-federal interests, or other (non-Corps) federal agencies, and incorporated into a federal system by specific Congressional action (i.e., United States law) are also designated as federal FCWs. Construction by, or previous rehabilitation or reconstruction of a non-federal FCW by a federal Agency (to include the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, NRCS, and EDA) does not make the levee a federal levee. Levees constructed under the authority of the Works Progress Administration are not federal levees. Section 14 projects constructed under authority of PL 79-526 are not federal FCWs.

**Flood.** Abnormally high water flow or water level that overtops the natural or artificial confining boundaries of a waterway. A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of river and/or tidal waters and/or the unusual accumulations of waters from any sources.

**Flood Control Project.** See flood control work.

**Flood Control Work(s) (FCW).** Structures designed and constructed to have appreciable and dependable effects in preventing damage caused by irregular and unusual rises in water level. FCW may include levees, channels, floodwalls, dams, and Federally authorized and constructed hurricane or shore protective structures. Structures designed and constructed to protect against salt water intrusion or tidal fluctuations, channel alignment, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, land reclamation, or to protect against land erosion are not considered to be FCWs. A riprap bank erosion control structure is not considered to be a flood control work.

**Flood Fighting.** Actions taken immediately before or during a flood to protect human life and to reduce flood damages, such as evacuation, emergency sandbagging, and providing assistance to flood victims.

**Flood Plain.** Any normally dry land area that is susceptible to being inundated by any natural source, such as a stream, during floods. The Army Corps of Engineers, as a matter of policy, encourages local governments to zone their flood plains against development and thereby avoid property damage and reduce obstruction to passage of floodwaters.

**Flood Stage.** The water surface elevation of a river, stream, or body of water, above which flooding and damages normally begin to occur, normally measured with respect to a specific reference gage. Flood stage is normally the level at which a river overflows its banks. Flood stage for any particular geographic area is unique to that geographic area.

**Floodwall.** A type of flood control work usually constructed of stone or reinforced concrete, and which may occasionally have plastic or steel components. Floodwalls are generally constructed in urban areas where insufficient area exists to construct earthen levees.

**Floodway.** Designated land left essentially clear of development, for the purpose of passing floodwaters. In some areas, floodway is used to designate the 100-year flood plain.

**Freeboard.** A factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for purposes of designing flood protection facilities and for floodplain management. Freeboard tends to compensate for the many uncertain factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway conditions, such as wave action, bridge obstructions, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed. Freeboard is being replaced as a technique through risk and uncertainty management.

**Haul Road.** Any privately owned road used by Corps vehicles or Corps contractor's vehicles to haul rock, earth fill, or other borrow materials to the site of a repair/flood fight/rehabilitation effort, or on which empty vehicles return. This includes haul roads specifically constructed for a repair/rehabilitation effort. Also included are levee crown roads and levee patrol roads that are not public roads, if their principal purpose is for access for maintenance, inspection, and flood fight purposes. All public roads are specifically excluded, to include any public roads that are situated on levees.

**Hundred Year Flood.** More accurately referred to as a "one percent chance flood," a flood of a magnitude that, according to historical statistics, has one chance in one hundred of occurring in any given year.

**Imminent Threat.** A subjective, statistically supported evaluation of how quickly a threat scenario can develop, how likely that threat is to develop in a given geographical location, and how likely the threat will produce catastrophic consequences to life and improved property. Implicit in the timing aspect can be considerations of time (e.g., a storm front's predicted path) or season (e.g., a snowpack that will melt in the coming spring runoff) or of known cyclical activities (e.g., rising water levels in the Great Lakes), but occurring inside the normal Corps decision and execution cycle for small project construction.

**Inactive.** A status applied to FCW concerning participation in the RIP. An Inactive project is, simply, any project that is not Active. It includes formerly Active FCW that left Active status in the RIP, either voluntarily or involuntarily, as well as those FCW that have never been Active in the RIP. See also "Active."

**Initial Repair.** A hastily effected temporary repair of a breached levee that provides a 10- to 25-year level of protection for a short (less than 12 month) period of time until the permanent repair can be designed and executed.

**Interior Drainage.** Natural or modified outflow of streams within a levee'd area for the conveyance of run-off. Interior drainage systems are not components of flood control works.

**LERRDs.** Lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and borrow and dredged or excavated materials disposal areas.

**Levee.** A structure, normally of earth or stone, built generally parallel to a river to protect land from flooding. A levee is a complete unit, designed and intended for flood control. A levee (excluding a ring levee) is always tied to high ground at both ends.

**Level of Protection.** The degree of protection against flooding provided by an FCW, normally expressed in terms of the cyclical flood-level against which protection is provided.

**Local Cost Share.** That portion of the cost of undertaking assistance authorized under PL 84-99 (e.g., repairing a damaged Active levee) for which the public sponsor is responsible. The local cost share may be paid either in cash or as work-in-kind, or as a combination of the two.

**Major Flood.** A flood event determined to be a 100-year event or better, or a series of weather events over a short period of time (normally seven days or less), which causes loss of human life and/or property damage exceeding \$1 million.

**Non-Federal Levee/Non-Federal Project/Non-Federal FCW.** A flood control work not authorized by Congress, or under other federal agency authority. Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects are considered non-federal FCW for the application of PL 84-99 authority.

**Nonstructural Alternative Project.** A type of project, authorized by an amendment to PL 84-99 contained in WRDA 96, that, in lieu of a structural rehabilitation effort, allows for restoration of floodways, flood plains, and/or the reduction of future flood damages and associated FCW rehabilitation costs.

**Political Subdivision.** A city, town, borough, township, county, parish, district, association, or other public body created by or pursuant to state law and having jurisdiction over the water supply of such public body.

**Project Cooperation Agreement.** An agreement entered into by a District Commander (acting as the agent for the Department of the Army on behalf of the United States Government) and the public sponsor for the purpose of identifying each party's rights and obligations concerning the expenditure of federal funds under the Army Corps of Engineers' authority other than that of PL 84-99. See also Cooperation Agreement.

**Public Sponsor.** A public sponsor is a legally constituted public body with full authority and capability to perform the terms of its agreement as the non-federal partner of the Corps for a project, and able to pay damages, if necessary, in the event of its failure to perform. A public sponsor may be a state, county, city, town, Federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization, Alaska Native Corporation, or any political subpart of a state or group of states that has the legal and financial authority and capability to provide the necessary cash contributions and lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and borrow or dredged or excavated material disposal areas (LERRD's) necessary for the project.

**Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP).** A component of the Civil Emergency Management Program concerned with the inspection and rehabilitation of FCWs.

**Rehabilitation Assistance.** Repair and restoration under authority of PL 84-99 of an Active FCW damaged in a flood event.

**Rehabilitation Project.** An action or series of actions focused on the repair of an Active flood control work to return the FCW's level of protection to its pre-flood/pre-storm level.

**Repair and Rehabilitation.** The terms "repair", "rehabilitation", or "repair and rehabilitation" mean the repair or rebuilding of a flood control structure, after the structure has been damaged by a flood, hurricane, or coastal storm, to the level of protection provided by the structure prior to the flood, hurricane, or coastal storm. The terms do not include improvements (betterments) to the structure, nor does "repair and rehabilitation" include any repair, reconstruction, or rehabilitation activities of a flood control structure which, in the normal course of usage, has become structurally unsound and is no longer fit to provide the level of protection for which it was designed.

#### **Saturation.**

**(1) Soil Saturation.** A condition in soil in which all spaces between the soil particles are filled with water. Such conditions normally occur after prolonged periods of rainfall and/or snowmelt. The result of a saturated condition is that any additional rainfall or snowmelt runs off into streams and rivers instead of soaking into the ground.

**(2) Levee saturation.** Soil saturation that has occurred in an earthen levee because of floodwaters remaining above flood stage for extremely long periods of time. This condition can lead to catastrophic failure of the levee.

**Secondary Levee.** A levee that is landward of the main or principal levee. The level of protection of a secondary levee is always less than the level of protection provided by the main levee.

**Stream.** A body of water flowing in a definite natural or manmade course that has the potential to flood. The term stream refers to rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, etc., and includes intermittent streams that are subject to flooding.

**Unusual Flooding.** For use with Advance Measures, a subjective determination that considers potential ability to approach an area's Flood of record, a catastrophic level of flooding, or a greater than 50-year level of flooding.

**Urban areas.** Cities, towns, or other incorporated or unincorporated political subdivisions of States that provide general local government for specific population concentrations, and occupy an essentially continuous area of developed land containing such structures as residences, public and commercial buildings, and industrial sites.

**Urban Levee.** A levee providing greater than a 10-year level of flood protection to a predominantly urban area.

**Work-in-Kind.** That portion of a public sponsor's cost share to rehabilitate a non-federal FCW that is a non-cash contribution. The work-in-kind may be in the form of labor, equipment, supplies, and/or services. Labor is defined as blue collar-type of work normally paid on an hourly wage basis, comparable to federal Wage Grade positions.